

REMARKS

Applicant has amended Claim 17 to include the subject matter of claim 1, and certain dependent claims have been amended to depend on claim 17. Upon entry of this amendment, claims 2-4, 6-7, 11, 14, 16-22, 26, 29, 47, 54 and 64-66 will remain pending. Applicant has proceeded in this manner to expedite allowance of these claims, and reserves the right to continue prosecution of the rejected claims in a continuation application.

All objections and rejections having been addressed, and in view of the foregoing, the claims are believed to be in form for allowance, and such action is hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, he or she is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.8 and/or 1.10*

(When using Express Mail, the Express Mail label number is mandatory; Express Mail certification is optional.)

I hereby certify that, on the date shown below, this paper (along with any paper referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being facsimile transmitted to the Patent and Trademark Office, (571) 273-8300.

Date: _____

Signature

KATHLEEN M. SMITH

(type or print name of person certifying)

* Only the date of filing (§ 1.6) will be the date used in a patent term adjustment calculation, although the date on any certificate of mailing or transmission under § 1.8 continues to be taken into account in determining timeliness. See § 1.703(f). Consider "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" (§ 1.10) or facsimile transmission (§ 1.6(d)) for the reply to be accorded the earliest possible filing date for patent term adjustment calculations.

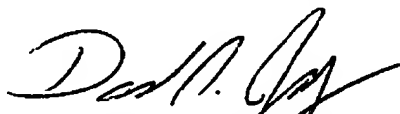
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